

# IOWA BIRD LIFE

IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION



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*The Iowa Ornithologists' Union, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. Iowa Bird Life and IOU News are quarterly publications of the Union.*

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# Meet an Iowa Birder—Dennis Carter

Larry Reis



*Dennis Carter birding at Cardinal Marsh, Winneshiek, summer 2010. Photograph by Larry Reis*

Dennis Carter was born on August 16, 1934 in Fort Dodge, Iowa and spent his early years growing up in the small town of Thor in Humboldt County. His parents owned three acres of land with a nice woodland grove next a wild railroad right-of-way where Dennis was first introduced to birds as he explored that convenient and wonderful outdoor world. His father was not only a veterinarian but also a bird enthusiast who had as a reference book Chester A. Reed's 1905 *Land Bird Guide*. Dennis used that guide as a resource until he was able to get his own bird book, which was John James Audubon's *The Birds of America*. He memorized those magnificent painted color plates until they were burned into his brain. His father provided the firing spark beneath his lifelong burning passion for birds and Audubon became his boyhood hero.

During World War II the National Audubon Society had a school bird program that gave willing students bird activity sheets and informational leaflets. Dennis was certainly drawn to this program, and it likely led to his later academic interests and meticulous record keeping centered on birds. His first bird records date back to 1946 when Dennis started documenting the birds he saw around Thor. Besides birds, Dennis has also always had a keen interest in the broader field of general nature study and those dated detailed bird records also include notes about butterflies, bugs and wildflowers. Dennis is still busy keeping bird records and his 64 years of data are a priceless resource for birders today and well into the future.

A little article in The Des Moines Register in 1947 caught Dennis' eye because it mentioned an organization called the Iowa Ornithologists' Union and offered him a chance

to join as a junior member for the reasonable fee of fifty cents per year. Dennis has been an active member ever since. In fact, his field notes regarding the nest of a Migrant (now Loggerhead) Shrike were published in the September 1947 issue of *Iowa Bird Life*. Many other notes followed in forthcoming issues, and he's also contributed seasonal reports on Winneshiek County birds for 20 years. Dennis was a solitary self-taught birder in those elementary student years, but he finally got the chance to attend an IOU meeting in the spring of 1951. Dennis somehow shrewdly convinced his father to drive him all the way to Spencer for the meeting, which was held in the local hotel. Left alone, he was befriended by a couple of IOU attendees, Helen Peasley and Janetta Dumont. Later, joining them on field trips to local wetlands, Dennis had maybe his most memorable birding day, not only because he saw several new species but also because he realized he wasn't the only person in Iowa who actually spent time outdoors looking specifically for birds.

Following high school graduation, Dennis attended Iowa State University from 1952 to 1957 where he took ornithology, of course, and eventually earned a M.S. degree in Wildlife Management. Dr. George O. Hendrickson was his favorite professor and became a fine mentor as Dennis honed his birding skills. Dennis' M.S. thesis dealt with Mourning Dove population dynamics in Iowa. Following college graduation, Dennis spent the 1957 summer season banding ducks on the Alberta, Canada prairies and abundant pothole marshes. On weekends Dennis would head west into the Rocky Mountains where he started seeing his first "western" birds. The year 1958 found Dennis in Louisiana attending Louisiana State University where he started working toward a doctorate, but he soon decided more schoolwork was not what he wanted. Instead, he spent the summer of 1959 at Jewell Cave in South Dakota where he led cave and bird tours in the Black Hills, submitting his sightings to *South Dakota Bird Notes*. Later that year, Dennis took a job with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Denver, Colorado, as a wildlife biologist. Working there for three years, Dennis quickly learned the local bird life and started leading field trips for the Denver Field Ornithologists.

His ability to educate people about birds and nature while simultaneously entertaining them led to a park naturalist position working for the National Park Service in Zion National Park, Utah, beginning in 1962. While stationed in that gorgeous setting, he co-published a book entitled *Birds of Zion National Park and Vicinity*. After three years there he transferred to Arches National Park, Utah, for a short stint before making another move to Craters of the Moon National Park in Idaho. The weather there was awful—winter lasted forever at that high altitude, and with snowfall averaging more than 100 inches per year it was a never-ending job to keep the snow shoveled off the flat roofs of the service buildings. Dennis was glad to get the chance to move east in 1970 where he interpreted nature for folks along the Blue Ridge Parkway. In 1975 he was promoted to head naturalist at Shenandoah National Park in Virginia. He finished out his professional career supervising interpreters in Pennsylvania and New Jersey at Delaware Water Gap.

By 1990 Dennis was ready to retire and moved to Decorah, Iowa, to be close to his mother and two sisters. Far from taking it easy, Dennis took a part-time job at the Oneota Food Coop where local organic produce from area farmers is offered to the community. In his free time he started volunteering and continues that trend today, regularly leading bird tours at Effigy Mounds National Monument and bird outings at Cardinal Marsh for

the Decorah Audubon Club. He also regularly leads bird, wildflower, nature and garden tours at Seed Saver's Exchange near Decorah, another organization that is bucking the trend against bigger and bigger corporate chemical-based farms. Dennis also generously spends his time talking with residents about nature at local nursing homes and as a hospice volunteer.

I was fortunate to meet Dennis soon after he arrived in Decorah. He kindly took me under his wing and has mentored me for 20 years, especially helping me begin to discover birding by ear. Dennis has spotted 258 bird species in Winneshiek County. Another memorable birding day, and maybe one that was instrumental in his decision to retire to Decorah, occurred there in 1956. The spring IOU meeting was held in Decorah that year and on the field trip which Dennis participated they counted 28 different warbler species! Dennis is always doing something to add to our knowledge of birds in the area. He's a fixture on the Decorah Christmas Bird Count, and did his very first Christmas Bird Count in 1951 near his hometown of Thor. He has completed several Breeding Bird Survey routes in north-eastern Iowa and has also done extensive work on Iowa's two breeding bird atlas projects.

As for his hobbies, Dennis enjoys tagging Monarch butterflies as they migrate south in the fall. Several of his tagged monarchs have been recovered in Mexico, a flight of more than 1700 miles! His fascination for butterflies started early in life, and a Riker mount with two Regal Fritillaries caught more than 60 years ago still looks superb. Dennis leads a low-key life by design and some of his favorite things reflect that lifestyle. For instance, his favorite bird, one that he first found in his yard as a youngster, is the Common (Maryland) Yellowthroat. His favorite birding spot is Cardinal Marsh in Winneshiek County, even though he's birded from coast to coast and from Mexico to Churchill, Manitoba. His dream trip is to visit Costa Rica for its wealth of both birds and national parks.

Dennis Carter has seen the face of birding in Iowa change dramatically. When he was a budding birder, he had only himself as a teacher to learn what was in the Iowa woods and fields. Today, with computers and modern technology, that task is much simpler. Years ago, he would be absolutely stunned and thrilled to meet another birder in the state. Now, thankfully, there are many more people who share this hobby. When asked what advice he'd give future tour leaders who will take his place, Dennis was quick to say "have patience". He also adds that you shouldn't assume people can use their binoculars effectively, and equally important, encourage the audience to embrace a broader interest in nature, pointing out bugs and flowers and scenery and lighting and anything else that adds to the experience. Look for Dennis to be out and about searching for birds around Decorah just about any time, but especially that sunny calm May morning when the woods are full of wonderful warblers.

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# Field Reports—Summer 2010

*James J. Dinsmore*

Birding in Iowa this summer was about average with two Accidental and four Casual species found. Perhaps the most notable was Say's Phoebe with one or two seen repeatedly during July, allowing many Iowa birders to add this species to their state list. Also, two species were added to the list of species known to have nested in Iowa.

## WEATHER

It was Iowa's wettest June in 138 years of records. Rainfall averaged 10.45 inches, 5.81 inches above normal. It was also the second wettest month ever in Iowa, exceeded only by the 10.50 inches that fell in July 1993. Numerous cities set all-time monthly records for rainfall with 16.86 inches at Indianola the most. Indianola, Des Moines, and Johnston all had measureable rainfall on 22 days. Sibley in northwestern Iowa was the dry spot with 5.44 inches but even that was 1.22 inches above normal. June temperatures were higher than normal, averaging 71.4 degrees or 1.6 degrees above normal and the 33<sup>rd</sup> warmest June in 138 years of records. June temperature extremes were 46 degrees at Sheldon on 3 June and at Cresco and Elkader on 29 June, and 95 degrees at Onawa on 26 June.

July was also wet and warm. July rainfall totaled 7.93 inches, 3.68 inches above average and the fifth wettest July on record. The most extreme rain event occurred on the night of 22 July when 9.93 inches fell at Oelwein with several more inches the next night. This led to flooding throughout the Maquoketa River valley and the failure of the Delhi Dam. July precipitation totals ranged from 3.86 inches at Bedford to 20.33 at Oelwein. Statewide temperatures averaged 75.3 degrees, 1.5 degrees above normal and the 45<sup>th</sup> hottest July on record. Temperature extremes were moderate with the high only 98 in Ankeny and the low 53 at several northern Iowa stations. The temperature low of 53 was the highest minimum temperature for July since 1879.

Iowa did not escape severe weather. The year's first tornado was on 1 June in O'Brien County and by the end of June, 33 tornadoes had been recorded, more than usual. Despite all of the rain in June, flooding was relatively limited that month although some of the major reservoirs were very high. July rainfall was concentrated into fewer events, and several river basins experienced very high water. With two five-inch-plus rainfall events and a total



*James J. Dinsmore*

of 16.20 inches of rain during the month, areas near Rathbun Dam had major flooding. Coralville, Red Rock, and Saylorville reservoirs also had very high water and some flooding.

The combination of a cold winter with the most snow on record for Iowa followed by a wet spring and finally a hot and wet summer probably had a negative effect on nesting success of some ground nesting species like Ring-necked Pheasant, Wild Turkey, and Northern Bobwhite. Fortunately, most of the flooding came after most wetland species were done nesting but reports of Marsh Wrens in newly flooded fields in July suggest they may have been flooded out earlier. Perhaps the most visible effects of the flooding to birders were the many flooded fields and the shorebirds that they attracted.

## BIRDS OF SUMMER

### Habitat Conditions

The federal Conservation Reserve Program, which pays landowners to convert highly erodible croplands to various cover types, has been a frequent topic of discussion in this report. I first mentioned it in the 1986 summer report (Dinsmore 1986), and it has been mentioned in many reports since then with an emphasis on the amount of habitat it has provided for grassland birds in Iowa. Over the years, much of the CRP land has disappeared from northern Iowa while more has been enrolled in southern Iowa. CRP enrollment peaked in Iowa in about 1992 when some 2.2 million acres were enrolled. Since then, the acreage has decreased with less than 1.7 million acres enrolled at the start of 2010. In August Iowa started its first general CRP signup since 2006. It was hoped that about 100,000 acres would be accepted into the program, basically replacing the 114,000 acres scheduled to leave the program in September 2010. Almost 500,000 acres are scheduled to be removed from the program in 2011–2013 and unless there are drastic changes at the federal level, CRP land will gradually disappear and with it tens of thousands of acres of habitat that has been used by meadowlarks, Grasshopper Sparrows, Dickcissels, and other grassland birds for the past 25 plus years.

Despite that bad news, various conservation organizations continue to find ways to protect habitat for a variety of wildlife species including birds. In early August, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources dedicated Iowa's 16<sup>th</sup> Bird Conservation area, the Boone Forks Woodland Bird Conservation Area in Hamilton and Webster counties.

### Breeding Species

Among nesting species, the best finds were the first evidence of nesting by Herring Gull and White-winged Dove in Iowa. Other notable nesting records include American White Pelican, several Double-crested Cormorant and Great Egret colonies, Cattle Egret, a second Ring-billed Gull colony, and Red-breasted Nuthatch. Nesting Bald Eagles and Sandhill Cranes continued to do well, Ospreys and Peregrine Falcons had good years as each added new nesting sites, and Henslow's Sparrows again were found over much of Iowa. Also, it appears that Eurasian Collared-Dove has now been found in all of Iowa's 99 counties, only 13 years after it was first found in the state.

Besides the above, a few nesting species continue to show evidence of decline in Iowa. In particular, Black-billed Cuckoo and Loggerhead Shrike both seem to be steadily declin-

ing in the state. Several other species that have been mentioned as declining nationally, e.g., Common Nighthawk, Red-headed Woodpecker, Eastern Towhee, Grasshopper Sparrow, and Dickcissel, seem to be doing fairly well in Iowa. At least I heard little about these species and no real indication of alarm by contributors to this article.

### Range Extensions

Several species continue to show minor but steady range extensions in Iowa. Blue Grosbeak, long considered a species only of far western Iowa, has gradually moved eastward in the loess hills with several hints of further eastward movement this year. Western Kingbird, with a similar nesting range in western Iowa, has also extended its range to the east and seems to have become established at an isolated outpost in the Des Moines region. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers have been gradually extending their range southward, and this year reports from three sites in Humboldt County suggest a further movement in that direction.

### Migrants

Few late spring migrants were reported this summer, corresponding to the general exit of migrant songbirds and shorebirds by late May described in the spring field reports (Kenne 2010). Among the passerines, only Alder Flycatcher and Least Flycatcher (possibly nesting), two Swainson's Thrushes, and single Chestnut-sided, Blackpoll, and Canada warblers were reported, a pretty meager total. Among non-passerines, a Broad-winged Hawk, the usual Black Terns, and a scattering of shorebirds were reported.

Among the southbound birds, Franklin's Gulls probably put on the best show with large flocks in the Spirit Lake area by early July. One wonders if they came from a nearby colony in southern Minnesota or from somewhere further north. Even the number of American White Pelicans was greatly reduced from recent Julys, perhaps because of the high water at several of the reservoirs where they usual gather. The usual southbound Black, Caspian, and Forster's terns were reported along with a respectable but not spectacular showing by shorebirds. Reports of hundreds of Cattle Egrets in southwestern Iowa at the end of July raise the question of where they came from. Among passerines, only an early Golden-winged Warbler was found.

### Unusual Species

This was a good summer for unusual species with two Accidental species (Neotropic Cormorant, Say's Phoebe) and four Casual species (King Rail, California Gull, Bewick's Wren, Black-headed Grosbeak) reported. Other good finds included Ross's Goose, Red-necked Grebe, Western Grebe, Snowy Egret, Little Blue Heron, White-faced Ibis, Swainson's Hawk, American Avocet, Bonaparte's Gull, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, and Pine Warbler. Missing after 14 years was the old reliable Black-headed Gull at Spirit Lake.

### SPECIES DATA

ALL CAPS = Accidental or Casual species, \* = documented. County names are in italics. Full names of contributors are at

the end of the article. Abbreviations used: **ad** = adult, **alt** = alternate (plumage), **A** = area, **I** = island, **juv** = juvenile, **L** = lake, **M** = marsh, **m.ob.** = many observers, **NM** = na-



tional monument, **NWR** = national wildlife refuge, **P** = park, **ph** = photo, **R** = river, **Res** = reservoir, **Rd** = road, **se half** = diagonal se half, **SF** = state forest, **Sl** = slough, **SP** = state park, **WA** = wildlife area, **WMA** = wildlife management area, **WPA** = waterfowl production area, **yg** = young.

Key to maps: shading = species reported in county. In most cases, the species was probably nesting in the county although evidence was presented only in a few cases.

**Snow Goose:** The usual scattered birds: one blue morph 3 Jun at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO), 2 on 4 Jun in *Plymouth* (SJD), one 4 Jun at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (SJD), 4 on 9 Jun near Harrier M *Boone* but only 2 remaining 29 Jul (LGD), and one blue morph 6 Jul at Colo Ponds *Story* (HZ). All the others were white morphs.

**Ross's Goose:** All: one 4 Jun at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (SJD).

**Mute Swan:** All: singles 3 Jun at Rock Creek SP *Jasper* (MPR) and 10 Jun at West Des Moines *Polk* (RIA, PHA, RIC, DAK).

**Trumpeter Swan:** A total of 41 pairs attempted to nest this year, the most since the reintroduction program began in 1994 (DH).

**Gadwall:** A brood 18 Jul at Coulter M *Franklin* (SJD) was a bit south of its usual range. Others included one 1 Jun near Story City *Story* (HZ), 2 on 6 Jun at Errington M *Polk* (BE), one 18 Jul near Dows *Franklin* (RGo), and one 26 Jul at Pool 9 *Allamakee* (SJD).

**Blue-winged Teal:** The 360 on 30 Jul in *Humboldt* included migrants (SJD), a rather early date for them to be flocking.

**Northern Shoveler:** All: 2 on 6 Jun at Chichaqua WA *Polk* (BE), a male 7 Jun in *Polk* (DK), a brood 24 Jun at Union Slough NWR *Kossuth* (MCK), one 18 Jul at Nottleman Island Mills (DTh), one 18 Jul in *Franklin* (SJD), one 21 Jul in *Humboldt* (SJD), and 31 including a brood 30 Jul in *Humboldt* (SJD).

**Northern Pintail:** All: a male 4 Jun at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (SJD).

**Green-winged Teal:** All: one 4 Jun at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (SJD), 6 on 6 Jul at Maynard Reece WPA *Kossuth* (MCK), 5 on 18 Jul in *Franklin* (SJD), one 26 Jul at Pool 9 *Allamakee* (SJD), 3 on 30 Jul in *Humboldt* (SJD), and a male all June at Cardinal M *Winneschiek* (DK).

**Canvasback:** All: a male 24 Jun at Cardinal M *Winneschiek* (DC), a female 4 Jun at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (SJD), and 3 on 26 Jul at Pool 9 *Allamakee* (SJD).



*Hooded Merganser*, Dunbar Sl, Greene, 4 June 2010. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA

**Redhead:** All: a pair 6 Jul at Maynard Reece WPA *Kossuth* (MCK), one 6 Jul in *Osceola* (TMH), and 3 on 14 Jul in *Kossuth* (MCK).

**Ring-necked Duck:** Two were at Grover's L *Dickinson* 4 Jul (LAS).

**Lesser Scaup:** All: single males 22 Jun at Anderson L *Hamilton* (SJD) and 10 Jul on Pool 19 *Lee* (SJD).

**Hooded Merganser:** Broods were reported in *Boone*, *Fremont*, *Greene*, *Hamilton*, *Humboldt*, *Kossuth*, *Mitchell*, *Polk*, *Sac*, *Story*, and *Washington* (LGD, SJD, MCK, MPr, DK), more than most recent years.

**Common Merganser:** All: 2 males 12 Jul at Credit I *Scott* (WMZ-details).

**Ruddy Duck:** All: one 6 Jun at Cardinal M *Winneshiek* (DC), 5 on 16, 24 Jun at Union Slough NWR *Kossuth* (MCK), 5

on 26 Jun, 9 Jul in *Pocahontas* (SJD), and singles in July in *Franklin*, *Hardin*, *Jackson*, and *Mitchell* (MPr, SJD, BSc). No one mentioned evidence of nesting.

**Northern Bobwhite:** Up to 8 were found in *Adams*, *Boone*, *Decatur*, *Jefferson*, *Lee*, *Madison*, *Monona*, *Van Buren*, and *Wayne* (m.ob.), the fewest reported in recent years. One observer thought that they were making a comeback in *Decatur* where he heard at least 6 males (JRL). DNR August roadside surveys found an average of 0.2 bobwhites per survey, the fewest in 50 years of records.

**Gray Partridge:** Up to 12 were found in *Cerro Gordo*, *Fayette*, *Greene*, *Humboldt*, *O'Brien*, *Palo Alto*, and *Winnnebago* (RGo, MPr, TMH, SJD, GLV), their traditional stronghold.

#### **Ring-necked Pheasant:**

Cummins noted that the 6 he saw on his *Wayne* Breeding Bird Survey was an all-time low. Iowa's hunting kill last fall was 271,000, the fewest since records began and 100,000 fewer than the previous low set in 2008. DNR August roadside surveys found an average of 11 pheasants per survey, the fewest in 50 years of records.

**Ruffed Grouse:** A brood 26 Jul in *Allamakee* (SJD) is the first brood reported in the summer season in 26 years. One was found 23 Jun in *Winneshiek* (DK).

**Greater Prairie-Chicken:** No reports but apparently Iowa's small population in the Kellerton area continues to persist (SSH).

**Common Loon:** All: one (basic) 12 Jun at Maffitt Res



*Northern Bobwhite*, Jefferson, 11 July 2010. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA

Warren (JG) and 2 on 9, 21 Jul at Spirit L Dickinson (SJD).

**Pied-billed Grebe:** A few nests or broods were reported in *Boone* and *Story* (LGD, HZ) at the southern edge of its range. The 14 broods at Sunken Grove L *Pocahontas* (SJD) were by far the most.

**Red-necked Grebe:** All: 3 on 11 Jul at Grover's L Dickinson (LAS) and one there 21 Jul (SJD).

**Western Grebe:** All: 2 on 24 Jun at Union Slough NWR Kossuth (MCK).

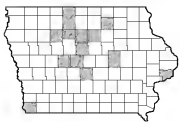
**NEOTROPIC CORMORANT:** A hold-over from spring remained at Rapp P Page through the summer (KDY, MPr-details).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** Three colonies were reported this summer: about 254 nests 28 Jun on spoil islands in Pool 13 Clinton (SJD), about 20 nests 10 Jul at High L Emmet (MPr), and 9 nests 31 Jul at Waubonsie WA Fremont (SJD). Away from nesting colonies, the largest group was 56 on 16 Jun at Union Slough NWR Kossuth (MCK).

**American White Pelican:** For the fourth consecutive summer, pelicans nested on spoil islands in Pool 13 Clinton; about 1,100 nests were counted 28 Jun (SJD). Flocks of southbound birds were evident 11 Jul with 171 at Union Slough NWR Kossuth (MCK). The largest flock was 750 on 28 Jul along the Des Moines R Polk (JSi).

**American Bittern:** All: 2 on 1 Jun near Ames Story (HZ), and singles 16 Jun at Ottosen Potholes Humboldt (SJD), 22 Jun at Coulter M Franklin (SJD), and 29 Jul at Snake Creek M Greene (LGD).

**Least Bittern:** Up to 4 were found in 13 counties mostly in the prairie pothole section of the state (m.ob.). Outside of that region, a few were found in Scott (WMZ), at Otter Creek M Tama (BSc), and at Forney L Fremont (SJD).



**Great Blue Heron:** The only post-

breeding concentration reported was 74 on 31 Jul in Fremont (SJD).

**Great Egret:** About 185 nests were found 28 Jun on two spoil islands in Pool 13 Clinton, the largest concentration of nests I am aware of ever for Iowa (SJD). Two central Iowa colonies were found 20 Jul; at least 100 adults and 23 nests at Colfax WA Jasper and 2 nests at Chichaqua A Polk (SJD). The largest post-breeding concentrations were 90 on 25 Jul near Runnells in SE Polk/NE Warren (JSi) and 45 on 31 Jul in Fremont (SJD).

**Snowy Egret:** All: 2 on 4 Jun at Credit I Scott (WMZ), one 27 Jul at Green Bay Bottoms Lee (JWR), one juv 31 Jul at Waubonsie WA Fremont (SJD), and 2 juvs 31 Jul in Mills (SJD).

**Little Blue Heron:** All: single juvs 16 Jul near Burlington Des Moines (Chuck Fuller fide JWR) and 31 Jul in Mills (SJD).

**Cattle Egret:** At least 7 pairs of Cattle Egrets nested on a spoil island in Pool 13 Clinton (SJD), only the fourth nesting record for Iowa and the first since 1993. Elsewhere, there were nine reports including 10 on 27 Jun s of Des Moines Polk (JG), 23 on 3 Jul at Table Marsh WA Woodbury (GLV), 311 on 18 Jul at Nottleman Island Mills (DTh), and 438 on 31 Jul in Mills (SJD). Many of the latter birds were in breeding plumage.

**Green Heron:** The one or 2 reported in Clayton, Dickinson, Hancock, Hardin, Osceola, Polk, Story (brood), Tama, and Warren (m.ob.) probably typifies the scattered small population of this species that covers the entire state. The most reported was 5 at Cardinal M Winneshiek (DC).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** All: one 3 Jun at Diehl wetland Warren (JSi), one 4 Jul at Christopherson Sl Dickinson (TMH), one 9 Jul at Sunken Grove WA Pocahontas (SJD), and 3 on 10 Jul at Goose L Greene (TMH).

**White-faced Ibis:** All: 3 on 3 Jun at Banner WA Warren (PHA, RIA).

**Osprey:** A total of 17 pairs had active territories this summer with 12 of those successful and producing 22 young. Territories were at Coralville Reservoir-3, Cedar Falls/Waterloo-4, *Polk*-3, *Monona*-1, *Cerro Gordo*-1, *Linn*-2, *Boone*-1, *Woodbury*-1, and Spirit Lake-1. In addition, 21 young from Minnesota and Wisconsin were released at five sites: White Rock Conservancy (*Guthrie*), Mud Lake (*Dubuque*), Annett Nature Center (*Warren*), Elk Rock (*Marion*), and Spirit Lake (*Dickinson*)(PSc). Away from nesting sites, singles were found in mid Jul in *Allamakee* and *Story* (SJD, WO).

**Mississippi Kite:** All: 2 on 7 Jun in Des Moines *Polk* (\*LSe), one or 2 on 3 Jun, 10 Jul in Des Moines *Polk* (PJW), 2 on 10 Jul in Ottumwa *Wapello* (SJD), and one there 15 Jul (JWR).

**Bald Eagle:** Iowa's breeding Bald Eagles continue to do well. About 250 territories are active although not all are used every year. This year, active nests were found in *Audubon* and *Clarke*, bringing the total number of counties with nests to 88 (SSh).

**Northern Harrier:** All: an ad carrying food 11 Jul near Yager Sl *Dickinson* (IAS) was suggestive of nesting, and one was found 12 Jul in *Greene* (TMH).

**Cooper's Hawk:** The only nest mentioned was in Decora *Winneshiek* (DC). Other reports, all

singles, were from *Allamakee*, *Black Hawk*, *Chickasaw*, *Decatur*, *Fayette*, *Hardin*, *Kossuth*, *Montgomery*, *Polk*, and *Winneshiek* (m.ob.). These included reports from both urban and rural areas and most probably represented nesting birds.

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** The only evidence of nesting reported was a pair with a fledgling 11 Jul at Croton Unit *Lee* (SJD). Four pairs were noted in *Allamakee* and one in *Clayton* (DK), and one bird was seen 19 Jun in Des Moines *Polk* (JG).

**Broad-winged Hawk:** One 3 Jun in *Kossuth* was thought to be a late migrant (MCK). Other reports included one or 2 in Des Moines *Polk* (PJW, RIC), singles at Croton and Donnellson units *Lee* (CRE), and singles in Ames *Story* (SJD) and Yellow River SF *Allamakee* (CRE).

**Swainson's Hawk:** All: one 4 Jun in *Mitchell* (PH) was a welcome find after none were reported last summer.

**Peregrine Falcon:** Ten of 15 nesting attempts were successful with 22 young



Adult Mississippi Kite, Ottumwa, Wapello, 10 July 2010. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA



Swainson's Hawk, Barringer Sl, Clay, 9 June 2010. Photograph by Jonathan Lautenbach, Grand Rapids, MI

fledged, totals similar to those in 2009. Successful nests were in *Allamakee-2*, *Polk-2*, and one each in *Clinton*, *Des Moines*, *Linn*, *Louisa*, *Scott*, and *Wapello* (PSc).

**KING RAIL:** All: one 31 Jul at Forney L *Fremont* (SJD).

**Virginia Rail:** Up to 3 were found in *Dickinson*, *Fremont*, *Kossuth*, and *Tama* (LAS, SJD, MCK, BSc). The only evidence of breeding was a brood 25 Jul at Cardinal M *Winneshiek* (SJD).

**Sora:** All: 2 on 1 Jun near Ames *Story* (HZ), one 17 Jul in *Humboldt* (SJD), and 6 on 18 Jul in *Franklin* (SJD).

**Common Moorhen:** All: singles 16 Jun at Big Wall L *Wright* (SJD), 29 Jun at Union Slough NWR *Kossuth* (TMH), 8 Jul at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO), and 10 Jul at Goose L *Greene* (TMH). No one mentioned nesting.

**American Coot:** Nests or broods were found in *Boone*, *Franklin*, *Palo Alto*, *Pocahontas*, *Story*, and *Wright* (SJD, MPr, HZ), all in its usual nesting range.

**Sandhill Crane:** Although crane numbers seemed to be up, the high water in spring and early summer may have adversely affected some nesting pairs. A pair nested at Ventura M *Cerro Gordo* (Lowell Washburn fide CJF), not far from the site of Iowa's last pre-modern Sandhill Crane nesting record in 1894.

**Black-bellied Plover:** All: one 5 Jun at Barringer Sl *Clay* (TMH).

**Semipalmated Plover:** Last: one 3 Jun at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO). First and most: 10 on 11 Jul in *Dickinson* (LAS).

**Piping Plover:** All: 4 on 6 Jun (JG), 3 on 28 Jun (JWR), and a juv 31 Jul (SJD), all at MidAmerican Energy ponds *Pottawattamie*.

**Killdeer:** High roadside counts included 438 on 11 Jul in *Jefferson* (SJD), 665 on 21 Jul in *Kossuth* (MCK), and 324 on 24 Jul in *Boone* (SJD).

**American Avocet:** All: one 28 Jun at a spoil island in Pool 13 *Clinton* (SJD) is the first June record since 2006. Two were at Saylorville Res *Polk* 21 Jul (Scott Rolles fide SJD).

**Spotted Sandpiper:** Broods attended by males were noted 24 Jul in *Polk* and 25 Jul in *Mitchell* (SJD). Elsewhere 2 were seen 30 Jun in *Louisa* (BSc) and 25 Jul in *Dallas* (JB). The 31 counted in flooded fields 21 Jul in *Kossuth* (MCK) is an unusually high total.

**Solitary Sandpiper:** First: one 6 Jul near Union Slough NWR *Kossuth* (MCK). Most: 37 on 21 Jul in *Kossuth* (MCK). One 16 Jun in *Wright* (SJD) was unusually late or summering.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** Last: one 10 Jun at Diehl wetland *Warren* (JSi). First: one 25 Jun at Chichaqua WA *Polk* (SJD) and 2 on 3 Jul at Table Marsh WMA *Woodbury* (GLV). Most: 11 on 21 Jul in *Kossuth* (MCK).

**Willet:** All: 9 on 18 Jul in *Franklin* (SJD).

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** Last: one 4 Jun at Black Hawk L *Sac* (SJD). First: one 9 Jul in *Pocahontas* (SJD), with 2 or 3 at the Spirit Lake landfill *Dickinson* (CRE, BSc) and one in *Kossuth* (MCK), all on 11 Jul. Most: 181 on 18 Jul in *Franklin* (SJD) and 195 on 21 Jul in *Kossuth* (MCK).

**Upland Sandpiper:** Up to 10 were found in 10 counties, mainly in scattered pockets in w and cen Iowa (m.ob.). The 10 on 6 Jun in *Washington* included 2 fledglings (CJC), the easternmost record and the only evidence of breeding mentioned.

**Marbled Godwit:** All: 4 on 21 Jul in *Clay* (SJD) and one 29 Jul at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (BSc).

**Ruddy Turnstone:** All: one 6 Jun at Little Wall L *Hamilton* (SJD) was late.

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** Last: 8 on 3 Jun at Colo Ponds *Story* (HZ), 28 on 3 Jun at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO), and 89 on 4 Jun at Black Hawk L *Sac* (SJD). Southbound, all: one 11 Jul in *Kossuth* (MCK) and 2 on 17 Jul in *Humboldt* (SJD),

**Least Sandpiper:** First: 2 on 28 Jun at a spoil island in Pool 13 *Clinton* (SJD) and one 30 Jun at Cardinal M *Winneshiek* (DK) were probably southbound. Most: 88 on 18 Jul in *Franklin* (SJD) and 84 on 21 Jul in *Kossuth* (MCK).

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** Last: 44 on 4 Jun at Black Hawk L *Sac* (SJD), and 18 on 6 Jun at Dan Green Sl *Clay* (LAS). One 28 Jun on a spoil island in Pool 13 *Clinton* (SJD) was either very late or summering.

**Baird's Sandpiper:** First: 7 on 21 Jul in *Kossuth* (MCK) and 2 on 23 Jul at Lewis Bottoms Rd *Linn* (BSc).

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** Last: 2 on 3 Jun at Colo Ponds *Story* (HZ) and 2 on 3 Jun at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO). First southbound: one 11 Jul in *Kossuth* (MCK). Most: 232 on 18 Jul in *Franklin* (SJD) and 258 on 21 Jul in *Kossuth* (MCK).

**Stilt Sandpiper:** First: one 10 Jul in Des Moines *Polk* (SJD). Most: 53 on 21 Jul in *Clay* (SJD).

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** First: singles 10 Jul in *Wapello* (SJD) and 11 Jul in *Kossuth* (MCK). Most: 5 on 18 Jul in *Franklin* (RGo).

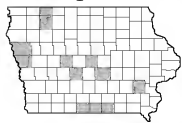
**Long-billed Dowitcher:** one alt ad 17 Jul in *Humboldt* (SJD-details) was a record early date.

**Wilson's Snipe:** All: singles 4 Jul at Christopherson Sl *Dickinson* (TMH), 11 Jul at Lake Darling SP *Washington* (SJD), 18 Jul in *Franklin* (SJD), and 21 Jul at Maynard Reece WPA *Kossuth* (MCK). The Lake Darling bird was unexpectedly early and far south.

**American Woodcock:** All: singles 7 Jun at Deweys Pasture *Clay* (TMH) and 26 Jun at Squaw Creek P *Linn* (BSc) were rare summer reports for a species that is far more obvious in spring.

**Wilson's Phalarope:** All: a female 26 Jun near Gilmore City *Pocahontas* (SJD), one 17 Jul and 7 on 21 Jul in *Humboldt* (SJD), one 21 Jul in *Kossuth* (MCK), and one 23 Jul at Lewis Bottoms Rd *Linn* (BSc). All except the latter bird were in areas where the species might nest.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** All: one first alt 17



Jul at Little Wall L *Hamilton* (SJD-ph) and one molting ad 21 Jul at Spirit L *Dickinson* (SJD) are the third and fourth summer records since 1995.

**Black-headed Gull:** The lone bird, presumably the same individual, that has been regular at the north end of Spirit L *Dickinson* starting in 1996 failed to show up this summer.

**Franklin's Gull:** The 13 on 14 Jun near Saylorville Res *Polk* (JG) were the last northbound birds. The 1,600 at the Spirit Lake landfill *Dickinson* 9 Jul (SJD), and 3,500 there 21 Jul (SJD) were large midsummer concentrations for Iowa. Elsewhere, 16 were in *Franklin* 18 Jul (SJD).

**Ring-billed Gull:** The nesting colony at Meinking M *Dickinson* had 137 ad and 17 yg 2 Jun (TMH). Another colony with 5 nests was found on a spoil island in Pool 13 *Clinton*, only the second colony known from Iowa (SJD). Away from the nesting colonies, the largest concentrations were 56 on 10 Jul at Pool 19 *Lee* (SJD), 75 on 10 Jul at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD), and 48 on 24 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD), all fewer than July counts in recent years. The 500 on 17 Jul at the Spirit Lake landfill *Dickinson* (JG) probably included some migrants.

**CALIFORNIA GULL:** An ad 9 Jul and again 17 Jul at the Spirit Lake landfill *Dickinson* (\*SJD, JG-details) is Iowa's second summer report.

**Herring Gull:** Four ad and a chick were found 28 Jun on a spoil island in Pool 13 *Clinton*, the first record of nesting in Iowa (SJD). See note in this issue.

**Least Tern:** All: 5 including one on a nest 6 Jun at MidAmerican Energy ponds *Pottawattamie* (JG), 6 there 28 Jun (JWR), and 41 (22 ad including 2 on nests and 19 juvs) there 31 Jul (SJD), one of the highest counts ever in Iowa. One 31 Jul in *Mills* was a migrant (SJD).

**Caspian Tern:** All: singles on 9, 27 Jun at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO), 11 Jul at the Spirit Lake landfill *Dickinson* (BSc, CRE), 21 Jul at Spirit L *Dickinson* (SJD), 24 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD), and 31 Jul at L *Icaria Adams* (SJD). Two were on at Ada Hayden P *Story* 23 Jul (SJD).

**Black Tern:** Last: 33 on 9 Jun at Harrier M *Boone* (LGD) and 2 on 16 Jun at Luton WA *Woodbury* (GLV). In mid June, about 40 at Myre SI *Winnebago* included some that appeared to be defending nests or young (TMH). Southbound birds included one 20 Jul at Rathbun Res *Appanoose* (RLC), and 28 at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD) and 15 in *Wright* (JG), both 24 Jul.

**Common Tern:** All: one in alt plumage 28 Jun at a spoil island in Pool 13 *Clinton* (SJD-ph) is one of the few documented records for summer.

**Forster's Tern:** One 4 Jun at Harwarden *Sioux* (SJD) was probably the last northbound bird. Four on 26 Jun at Eagle L *Hancock* (MPR, PH) was the only midsummer report although there was no indication of nesting. By mid July, southbound birds were evident with 6 on 20 Jul at Rathbun Res *Appanoose* (RLC) and 26 on 24 Jul at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD) the largest groups.

**Eurasian Collared-Dove:** By my records, this species completed its conquest of Iowa this past spring and has now been reported in all 99 counties. With reports in *Jackson* (BSc), *Allamakee* (SJD), *Fayette* (SJD), and *Winneschiek* (SJD) this summer, it seems to be making further inroads in ne and e-cen Iowa where it has been scarce.

**White-winged Dove:** A pair nested in Shenandoah *Page* (KDY, MPR), Iowa's first evidence of nesting for this species. See note this issue.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** Up to 5 were found in *Boone*, *Chickasaw*, *Dallas*, *Fre-*

mont, Hamilton, Humboldt, Lee, Marshall, Tama, Van Buren, and Webster (m.ob.), covering much of Iowa.

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** Few reports, all singles, from Hamilton, Mills, Palo Alto, and Webster (SJD). The first was seen 17 Jul, an amazingly late date even for this late arriving migrant. This species seems to be increasingly difficult to find in Iowa.

**Common Nighthawk:** Few reports. Thompson indicated it was still fairly common in the Des Moines area.

**Chuck-will's-widow:** All: singles 3 Jun at Green Hollow WA Fremont (KDy), 15, 16, 27 Jun at Whitebreast Unit Lucas (JG, RIA, PHA, JWR), and 10 Jul at Croton Unit Lee (SJD).

**Eastern Whip-poor-will:** Up to 14 were found in Boone, Decatur, Lee, Lucas, Mills, and Wayne (m.ob.).

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** Few reports but singles in six counties scattered across the e half of Iowa (MPr) suggest that the species continues to maintain its usual levels of abundance.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** The only reports of nesting were a brood near Highlandville Winneshiek (DC) and two nests in Allamakee (DK). Other reports from established sites across n Iowa include good numbers in Allamakee, Clayton, and Winneshiek (DK), and singles 4 Jun at Oak Grove P Sioux (SJD), 22 Jun at Pilot Knob SP Hancock (RGo), and 17 Jul at Effigy Mounds NM Allamakee (CRE). Further south in Humboldt, a pair 18 Jun near Three

Rivers Trail, and singles near Bradgate WA 28 Jun and Rutland 15 Jul (JN), suggest nesting at one or more of those sites.

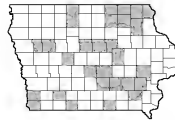
**Pileated Woodpecker:** One or 2 were found in Allamakee, Boone, Clayton, Hancock, Marshall, and Mills (m.ob.). The only nest reported, at A.A. Call SP Kossuth, produced 2 yg (MCK).

**Acadian Flycatcher:** Up to 4 were found in 13 counties (m.ob.), all in the se half of Iowa, the traditional range of this species.

**Alder Flycatcher:** All: one 6 Jun at Big Creek L Polk (DTh) and one heard 22 Jun at Pilot Knob SP Hancock (RGo) were both late.

**Willow Flycatcher:** Up to 4 were found in 28 counties (m.ob.) covering much of Iowa south to the Missouri border.

**Least Flycatcher:** All: one heard 7 Jul at Eagle L Hancock (RGo) may have been an early migrant.



Willow Flycatcher, Hawkeye WA, Johnson, 29 July 2010. Photograph by Reid Allen, West Des Moines, IA





*Trumpeter Swan brood, Hamilton, 29 June 2010. Photograph by Jim Moreland, Boone, IA*



*Gray Partridge chick, Butler, 20 June 2010.  
Photograph by Tom Schilke, Waterloo, IA*



*Wood Duck duckling, Eagle L, Hancock,  
26 June 2010. Photograph by Paul Hertzell,  
Mason City, IA*



*American Bittern, Snake Creek M, Greene,  
29 July 2010. Photograph by Larry Dau,  
Boone, IA*



*Juvenile Snowy Egret, Mills, 31 July 2010.  
Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA*



*Cattle Egret nest with egg and young, Pool 13,  
Clinton, 28 June 2010. Photograph by Stephen  
J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA*



*Cattle Egret near nest, Pool 13, Clinton,  
28 June 2010. Photograph by Stephen J.  
Dinsmore, Ames, IA*



*Upland Sandpiper, Plymouth, 10 July 2010.  
Photograph by Paul O. Roisen, Sioux City, IA*



*Belted Kingfisher,  
Boone, 9 July 2010.  
Photograph by Jim  
Moreland, Boone, IA*



*Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Woodbury,  
15 June 2010. Photograph by Paul O. Roisen,  
Sioux City, IA*



*Yellow-throated Warbler, Johnson, 14 June  
2010. Photograph by James Scheib, Iowa City, IA*



*Yellow-headed Blackbird, Blue L,  
Monona, 11 June 2010. Photograph  
by Tyler M. Harms, Ames, IA*



*Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Cedar Rapids, Linn,  
13 July 2010. Photograph by Linda and Robert  
Scarth, Cedar Rapids, IA*



*Common Yellowthroat, Boone, 27 July  
2010. Photograph by Jim Moreland,  
Boone, IA*



*Bank Swallows, Cherokee, 3 June 2010. Photograph  
by Dick Bierman, Cherokee, IA*



*Yellow-breasted Chat, Henry, 11  
July 2010. Photograph by Stephen J.  
Dinsmore, Ames, IA*

### SAY'S PHOEBE:

One was found 1 Jul at Freda Hafner Kettle-hole *Dickinson* (\*LAS). On 4 Jul and until at least 11 Jul, 2 individuals were present with one remaining to the end of July (\*MPr, \*GLV, \*SJD, \*CRE, m.ob.). This is Iowa's first record of this species since 2001.

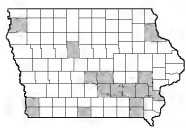
**Western Kingbird:** Up to 4 were found in *Fremont*, *Harrison*, *Page*, and *Pottawattamie* (MPr) in w Iowa where it is expected. All other reports were from *Polk* in cen Iowa (JB, DAK) where it has become established in recent years.

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher:** One 24 Jun at Walnut Creek NWR *Jasper* (Don Brown-ph) was the only report.

**Loggerhead Shrike:** With reports only from *Boone* (brood), *Butler*, *Cerro Gordo*, *Crawford*, *Decatur*, *Louisa*, *Madison* (brood), and *Sac* (m.ob.), shrike numbers continue to dwindle in Iowa. In previous summers, shrikes were found in 21 counties in 2005, 18 in 2008, and 12 in 2009.

**White-eyed Vireo:** Up to 7 were found in *Allamakee*, *Henry*, *Johnson*, *Lee*, and *Polk* (CRE, SJD, MPr, DK, JSi).

**Bell's Vireo:** Up to 4 were found in 16 counties, mostly in the s half of Iowa but north to *Clayton* (DAK), *Webster* (SJD, DCH), and *Sioux* (SJD).



**Yellow-throated Vireo:** From 1–3



*Sedge Wren*, Boone, 9 July 2010. Photograph by Jim Moreland, Boone, IA

were found in *Chickasaw*, *Fayette*, *Fremont*, *Guthrie*, *Hardin*, *Jasper*, *Jefferson*, *Lee*, *Marshall*, *Van Buren*, *Washington*, and *Winneshiek* (MPr, LGD, DC).

**Tree Swallow:** Most: 453 on 30 Jul in *Humboldt* (SJD).

**Bank Swallow:** Most: 200 on 3 Jul at Owego Wetlands *Woodbury* (GLV).

**Cliff Swallow:** Most: 1,350 on 30 Jul in *Humboldt* and 975 on 31 Jul in *Fremont* (SJD).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** A pair with 3 fledglings in early June in *Algona Kosuth* were last seen 23 Jun (MCK, SJD)(see Kenne 2010). Nesting has been reported 4 of the last 6 summers. Elsewhere, singles visited a feeder in *Winneshiek* throughout the summer (EB) and 3 Jul in *Sioux City Woodbury* (GLV).

**Carolina Wren:** Singles were found in *Allamakee*, *Lee*, *Tama*, and *Warren* (SJD, CRE, MPr, AMJ, JSi). One 3 Jun at Rush L *Osceola* (TMH) was far out of its normal range. With fewer reports than in recent summers, perhaps last winter was hard on this species.

**BEWICK'S WREN:** Two 11 Jul were at the junkyard near Argyle *Lee* (SJD).

**Sedge Wren:** From 1–5 were reported in *Allamakee*, *Dickinson*, *Johnson*, *Lee*, *Polk*, *Story*, and *Winneshiek*, all in July (CRE, DTh, WO, HZ, DC). The 46 found 31 Jul in *Adams* (SJD) was by far the most reported.

**Marsh Wren:** Up to 20 were found in *Allamakee*, *Franklin*, *Hancock*, *Humboldt*, *Jasper*, *Story*, *Tama*, *Webster*, and *Winneshiek* (SJD, PH, HZ, BSc, DC). The only report from the s half of Iowa was one 31 Jul in *Mills* (SJD).

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** Few reports

with up to 5 from *Benton*, *Guthrie*, and *Jasper* (BT, LGD, DAK), all in its usual range. One 28 Jun near Bradgate *Humboldt* (JN) and 2 on 7 Jul at Eagle L *Hancock* (RGo) were along the edge of its established range.

**Veery:** All: one 4 Jul at Pilot Knob SP *Hancock* (JB).

**Swainson's Thrush:** All: one singing 10 Jun at Yellow River SF *Allamakee* (DK-details) was likely a late migrant (record latest) but one 26 Jul at Sweet M *Bremer* (SJD-ph) is harder to classify.

**Wood Thrush:** Up to 4 were found in *Allamakee*, *Benton*, *Fayette*, *Fremont*, *Hardin*, *Humboldt*, *Lee*, *Lucas*, *Marshall*, *Poweshiek*, *Scott*, *Van Buren*, and *Winneshiek* (m.ob.), mostly in e Iowa.

**Northern Mockingbird:** One or 2 were seen in *Decatur* (brood), *Fremont* (nest), *Jefferson*, *Madison*, and *Van Buren* (JRL, KDy, SJD, DTh, MPr) in s Iowa where it is expected. One 21 Jul near Scranton *Greene* (TMH, SJD) was somewhat north of its usual range.

**Cedar Waxwing:** Few mentioned this notoriously nomadic species. However, one observer called it an “incredible summer” for it as a “statewide breeding bird” (SJD).

**Blue-winged Warbler:** One 10 Jun at Sand Springs WA *Hardin* (MPr) was the only report.

**Golden-winged Warbler:** A male 24 Jul at Gilbertville *Black Hawk* (TSS-details) was Iowa's first summer record since 1999.

**Northern Parula:** From 1–4 were found in *Benton*, *Butler*, *Fremont*, *Lee*, and *Van Buren* (BT, TSS, MPr, CRE).

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** One 2 Jun at Little Sioux Valley *Cherokee* (LAS) was probably a late



*Swainson's Thrush*, Sweet M, Bremer, 26 July 2010.  
Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA

migrant. An ad 10 Jun at Yellow River SF *Allamakee* seemed to be carrying food to a nest (DK), and a pair 20 Jun at Wentland Woods *Floyd* acted like they were near a nest (SJD). A male was found 26 Jul along Red Oak Rd *Allamakee* (SJD).

**Yellow-throated Warbler:** The only reports were 2 or 3 on 29 Jun at Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* (MPr) and up to 4 on 29 Jun, 1 Jul at Croton Unit *Lee* (MPr, CRE).

**Pine Warbler:** A male 11 Jul at Donnellson Unit *Lee* (SJD) probably was the same bird found there in late May (Kenne 2010). This species has been found at this site during several recent summers.

**Blackpoll Warbler:** A male 13 Jun near Davis City *Decatur* (NM) was a record late bird.

**Cerulean Warbler:** All: singles in *Hancock*, *Lee*, *Washington*, and *Winneshiek* (RGo, CRE, SJD), all established sites for the species. This is the fewest reports in a number of years.

**American Redstart:** Up to 10 were found in *Boone*, *Fayette*, *Grundy*, *Guthrie*, *Hardin*, *Humboldt*, *Kossuth*, *Marshall*, *Poweshiek*, *Story*, *Tama*, *Washington*, and *Winneshiek* (m.ob.).

**Prothonotary Warbler:** From 1–5 were found in *Clayton*, *Dallas*, *Franklin*, *Hardin*, *Humboldt*, *Linn*, *Polk*, *Scott*, and *Wright* (m.ob.), all within its usual range.

**Worm-eating Warbler:** All reports were from *Lee*: one and 4 on 10, 11 Jul at Croton Unit (JWR, SJD) and one 11 Jul at Donnellson Unit (SJD).

**Ovenbird:** Few reports with up to 6 in *Fremont*, *Hancock*, *Lee*, *Marshall*, and *Van Buren* (MPr, JB), all in its usual range.

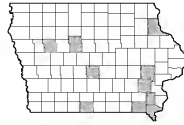
**Louisiana Waterthrush:** Few reports: one 28, 29 Jun at Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* (MPr), and one 29 Jun, 1 Jul at Croton Unit *Lee* (MPr, CRE).

**Kentucky Warbler:** From 1–5 were found in *Lee*, *Mills*, *Polk*, *Van Buren*, and *Washington* (MPr, CRE, SJD, DTh, JG).

**Hooded Warbler:** All reports were from the Donnellson Unit *Lee*: one or 2 on 29 Jun and 1, 11 Jul (MPr, CRE, SJD).

**Canada Warbler:** A female 12 Jun in *Clay* (LAS) was late.

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** Up to 4 were found in 10 counties, mainly in se quarter of Iowa (m.ob.) with outliers in *Clayton* (DK), *Webster* (DCH), and *Sac* (GLV).



**Clay-colored Sparrow:** All reports were from *Dickinson*, mostly from Freda Haffner Kettlehole where people were searching for the Say's Phoebe. Starting with one 1 Jul (LAS), up to 4 were found there through the end of July (m.ob.). The only other report was one 21 Jul at nearby *Kettleson Hogsback* (SJD).

**Lark Sparrow:** Up to 4 were found in *Boone*, *Dickinson*, *Fremont*, *Lee*, *Marshall*, *Plymouth*, *Story*, *Tama*, and *Washington* (LGD, MPr, CRE, HZ), typical of its patchy distribution across Iowa. On 18, 19 Jul, Thompson found about 20 including several family groups in *Mills*, an indication of how abundant it can be in suitable habitat.

**Henslow's Sparrow:** Up to 10 were found in 20 counties, mainly in the e half of Iowa (m.ob.) and again showing the broad Iowa distribution of this secretive and once-considered-rare species.



**Swamp Sparrow:** Birds were found in 19 counties, all in the n half of Iowa and mainly in the prairie pothole region with a few east to *Allamakee* and *Clayton* (SJD, DAK). The most was





*Dickcissel*, Boone, 6 June 2010. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA

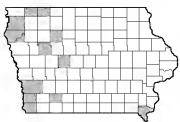
16 singing males and a nest with 3 yg 16 Jun at Union Slough NWR *Kossuth* (SJD).

**Summer Tanager:** One or 2 were found in *Boone, Fremont, Guthrie, Lee, Mills, Montgomery, Polk, Van Buren, and Washington* (m.ob.), all in the s half of Iowa.

**Scarlet Tanager:** One or 2 were found in *Boone, Fremont, Howard, Humboldt, Jasper, Lee, Marshall, Mills, Poweshiek, Sioux, and Van Buren* (m.ob.), typical of the almost statewide distribution of this species.

**BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK:** A male 4 Jun near Akron *Plymouth* (\*SJD) is Iowa's first summer record.

**Blue Grosbeak:** From 1–4 were found in 12 counties (m.ob.). Although most were found in its traditional w Iowa range, singles 13



Jun at *Goose L Greene* (SJD), 9 Jul near *Plover Pocahontas* (SJD, TMH), and 31 Jul near *Nodaway Adams* (SJD) suggest it is gradually expanding its range eastward. As in most summers, one was found in se Iowa; a male 10 Jul near the St. Francisville bridge *Lee* (JWR).

**Dickcissel:** The 54 at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* 25 Jun (DAK) indicate it is still common in suitable habitat.

**Bobolink:** Three 6 Jun in *Washington* (CJC) were the southernmost reports of this species.

**Eastern Meadowlark:** Three 19 Jun on the Sauk Rail Trail *Sac* (GLV) were west of its usual range in that area of Iowa.

**Western Meadowlark:** The easternmost records were singles near *New Liberty Scott* and at *Seven Cities Sod farm Scott*, both

16 Jun (WMZ).

**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** On 4 Jul, only a single male was at *Muskrat Sl Jones* (BSc), an e Iowa outpost for this species that has had sporadic occupancy in recent years.

**Great-tailed Grackle:** Up to 3 were found in *Carroll, Greene, Kossuth, Potawattamie, and Tama* (SJD, RIC) at or near established sites. A male 9 Jul at *Sunken Grove A Pocahontas* (SJD) seems to be from a new site.

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** On 1 Jul a juv was seen being fed by a Song Sparrow at *Ada Hayden P Story* (WO).

**Orchard Oriole:** Up to 6 were found in *Boone* (brood), *Cerro Gordo, Fremont, Hardin, Jasper, Kossuth, Plymouth, Potawattamie, Poweshiek, Story, Van Buren, Washington, and Winneshiek* (m.ob.).



The most were about 20 including several broods 18, 19 Jul in *Mills* (DTh).

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow:** One 10 Jun at a feeder in Cedar Rapids *Linn* (BT) was near the northwestern limits of its Iowa range.

#### COMMENT

This report depends upon the information that is submitted by observers around the state. This year I received about 950 reports from 46 people, fewer than most

recent years. I suspect that mix of hot and wet weather kept some people out of this field this summer. I included 157 species in this report, well below the 172 in last year's report and also fewer than the recent yearly average of about 165 species. Nonetheless, there were lots of good sightings reported, and it is apparent that it was a good summer to be in the field. As always, I am indebted to those of you who sent in your reports and I hope that even more do so in 2011.

#### CONTRIBUTORS

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Danny Akers	DAK	Ankeny	Jeff R. Livingston	JRL	Davis City
Pam H. Allen	PHA	W Des Moines	Nathan Miller	NM	Davis City
Reid I. Allen	RIA	W Des Moines	Iowa Department of Natural Resources/Multiple		
Ellen Bell	EB	Ridgeway	Species Inventory and Monitoring (MSIM)		
John Bissell	JB	Grimes	Jacob Newton	JN	Ottosen
Dennis Carter	DC	Decorah	Wolf Oesterreich	WO	Ames
Chris J. Caster	CJC	Iowa City	Marietta Petersen	MAP	Walnut
Robert I. Cecil	RIC	Des Moines	Mark Proescholdt	MPr	Liscomb
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Larry G. Dau	LGD	Boone	Bill Scheible	BSc	Cedar Rapids
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Keith Dyche	KDy	Shenandoah	Pat Schlarbaum	PSc	Nevada
Chris R. Edwards	CRE	North Liberty	Lee A. Schoenewe	LAS	Spencer
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Jay Gilliam	JG	Norwalk	Jim Sinclair	JSi	Indianola
Rita Goranson	RGo	Mason City	Dennis Thompson	DTh	Johnston
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Matt C. Kenne	MCK	Algona	Hank Zaletel	HZ	Nevada
Darwin Koenig	DK	Ankeny	Walter Zuurdeeg	WDZ	Davenport

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# Herring Gull nesting at Pool 13, Clinton County: First Iowa nesting record

*Stephen J. Dinsmore and Michael Griffin*

On the morning of 28 June 2010 we were conducting a colonial bird nesting survey of two islands in Pool 13, Clinton County. At 8 A.M. we landed a boat at 307 Island for a quick ground survey of nesting activity. This island contained a large nesting colony of American White Pelicans (452 nests), Double-crested Cormorants (177 nests), and Great Egrets (145 nests), although many of the nests were now empty and the young were moving about the island. There were approximately 40 Ring-billed Gulls circling the island, although we initially saw no evidence of nesting. As we were about to depart, we noticed a seemingly agitated adult Herring Gull perched high in a dead tree near the north end of the island. Its behavior suggested nesting activity, so we launched the boat and watched the bird for almost 15 min at a distance of 100 m. The bird remained perched, but we soon noticed 3 more adult Herring Gulls resting on the water near the island. We spent the next hour unsuccessfully searching adjacent 306 Island, thinking they might be nesting there. On our departure, we quickly scanned 307 Island from the boat and noted several Ring-billed Gulls that appeared to be on nests. We landed again and confirmed 5 Ring-billed Gull nests with eggs, but could not locate a Herring Gull nest. As we searched the north end of the island, one adult Herring Gull became extremely agitated whenever we approached a particular clump of taller vegetation near the water's edge. Repeated searches of this area failed to reveal a nest, but as we were about to leave we located a very large Herring Gull chick. We quickly captured and photographed the chick, and then quickly left the area to avoid further disturbance. The chick was fully feathered with erupting primaries, indicating it was approximately 3 weeks old (Pierotti and Good 1994). Allowing 5 days for nest construction, 6 days for egg-laying (2 days per egg, normal clutch is 3 eggs), and 30 days for incubation, we estimate that nesting was initiated around 1 May, which is a little later than normal for this latitude (Pierotti and Good 1994).

This represents the first nesting record of a Herring Gull for Iowa. This species breeds from Alaska east to the Atlantic Coast, and south to the Great Lakes and along the Atlantic Coast to North Carolina (Pierotti and Good 1994). They breed regularly on Lakes Superior, Michigan, and Winnebago in Wisconsin (Cutright et al. 2006). In Minnesota the species breeds sparingly along Lake Superior, in the counties bordering Ontario, and south to Mille Lacs Lake (Anthony X. Hertzell, pers. comm.). In Illinois it nests regularly at Lake Calumet in Cook County (Kleen et al. 2004) and sparingly at other sites near Lake Michigan (Thomas J. Benson, pers. comm.).

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Nick Anich, Thomas J. Benson, and Anthony X. Hertzell provided assistance in locating breeding records from surrounding states.



Michael Griffin holding a fledgling Herring Gull at Pool 13, Clinton, 28 June 2010. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore

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# White-winged Dove nesting in Page County: First Iowa nesting record

Keith Dyche

The first confirmed sightings of White-winged Doves in Iowa were comprised of four reports in 1997 (Kent 1997); the species has been almost annual in the last decade. Here, I provide details on the first confirmed nesting record of this species in Iowa. On 25 May 2009, 1 or 2 White-winged Doves first appeared near our yard in Shenandoah, Iowa and stayed through mid-June. A White-winged Dove re-appeared in our yard on 2 January 2010, and a pair was observed there from 12–19 January. The pair of doves re-appeared in our yard on 12 April and frequently visited our feeders. The date and behavior suggested nesting and I began looking for a nesting site. During this time I saw single White-winged Doves at two other locations in Shenandoah, but was never able to relocate them at those sites.

On 5 May, I was working next door to Richard Robinson's house, which is a few blocks from my home. I asked him if he had ever seen White-winged Doves at his feeders. He was unfamiliar with the species, and I described the birds to him. At the time he had Eurasian Collared-Doves nesting in his front yard. On 13 May, a co-worker was working in that same area and told me that a pair of White-winged Doves had been calling from the power line all day. About the same time, Richard asked to view images of White-winged Doves so he could distinguish them from Eurasian Collared-Doves. Richard began to notice that White-winged Doves were carrying nesting material into the tree in his front yard. On 4 June, nesting was confirmed in a maple tree located near the street in front of Richard's house. Two chicks were discovered on 9 June, and they were out of the nest by 13 June. Within a day the female was back on the nest to begin a second nesting attempt. When the chicks left the nest, the skin on the center line of their breasts was still visible. The nesting cycle for a White-winged Dove takes a minimum of about 35 days (Schwertner et al. 2002), and over the next few months as many as three additional broods produced a total of six chicks at this site. The nest site was approximately 23 feet off the ground at a fork on the main trunk, and may have been an abandoned Eurasian Collared-Dove nest that was taken over by the White-winged Doves. Adult and juvenile White-winged Doves are still regular visitors to our feeders as of late October 2010.

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# Book Review

James J. Dinsmore

*Gladys Black. The Legacy of Iowa's Bird Lady* by Larry A. Stone and Jon W. Stravers. 2010. Turkey River Environmental Expressions, Elkader, IA. 147 pp, \$19 (paperback)

Perhaps no other Iowan in recent history was better known for their interest in and advocacy for birds than Gladys Black. Through her newspaper columns, letters to the editor, and public appearances, Gladys became well known throughout Iowa for her interest in birds. Besides her untiring voice for various conservation issues, Gladys was also a character, known for being an outspoken advocate when it came to the issues that concerned her the most. Thus it is fitting that two well-known Iowa conservationists and writers should try to capture the essence of Gladys in this book.

The book is divided into 18 chapters, starting with her early years, education as a nurse, marriage to Wayne Black, and life in Georgia. After her husband's death in 1956, she returned to Iowa to care for her mother and began to develop the legacy that many Iowa Ornithologists' Union members know. Various chapters cover her growing interest in the environment in general and birds in particular, the time she spent with neighbor children and later with school groups, her work with Outdoor Days at Red Rock Reservoir, and eventually her growing statewide recognition as a person who cared greatly about the environment. Besides their own longstanding friendships with Gladys, the authors spent considerable time interviewing many people who knew, learned from, or worked with Gladys. These provide a broad range of perspectives on Gladys and the kind of person she was.

Gladys lived at an opportune time to develop the following that she did. The environmental movement was just growing in the United States, and many Iowans were anxious to learn more about various conservation issues. Gladys was an avid reader who was just as anxious to learn more and had a passion for sharing that information with others. Along the way, Gladys began writing to spread her message, first through letters to the editor and later through a series of articles on birds she wrote for *The Des Moines Register*. The Register was still a statewide newspaper and thus her name became known throughout Iowa. And it was hard for many Iowans not to respond positively to a single woman who drove an old robin-egg blue car, dressed mostly in black, smoked heavily, and was passionate when it came to speaking out against pesticides, habitat loss, and hunting Mourning Doves.

The various stories from the many people that the authors interviewed are central to this book and give it a very personal touch. Gladys was a relentless advocate for the issues that interested her, related well to young people and to small-town people, and developed



a broad following in the state. She was one of the first to be involved with rehabilitation of injured birds, especially raptors, and helped develop the cadre of people who now provide those services in Iowa. She was also an early leader in environmental education although they didn't call it that back then. For more than 20 years she was a leader in the annual Outdoor Days, an event covering various conservation issues that was held for all sixth graders in Marion County. There her bird banding demonstration was a favorite event which introduced thousands of young people to birds and the thrill of being close to a live bird. Both locally and throughout Iowa, she was an important person in attracting many young people to a lifelong interest in the out-of-doors in general and birds and conservation interests in particular.

Gladys's relationship with the IOU is a somewhat mixed one. She was a longtime member and in 1977 was elected to Honorary Membership, an honor conveyed upon only a few people over the history of the organization. The authors describe her as "not a high-ranking member," a statement I don't fully understand. For many years, she regularly attended IOU meetings and was well-known to many of its members. However, rather than working with groups like the IOU, I think Gladys preferred to do her own thing and found that she could be most effective in that manner. Still, her activities on behalf of birds benefitted the group as it opened the eyes of many people to birds and some of those people have been long-time active members of the IOU. Her mere mention of the organization in one of her columns on birds in the Register resulted in about 200 new members for the organization!

For those who knew Gladys and also those who just knew of her, this is an interesting and personal story of one of Iowa's strongest environmental advocates. A grant from the IOU helped with the publication of the book and is acknowledged in the book.

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## **Iowa Ornithologists' Union Fall Business Meeting**

*23 October 2010*

The IOU fall general membership business meeting was held at the Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge, Prairie City, Iowa. President Steve Dinsmore called the meeting to order at 3:20 P.M. Also in attendance were Aaron Brees, vice president; Cathy Konrad, secretary; board member Jay Gilliam; and members of the organization.

**Secretary's Report:** Cathy Konrad reported that minutes from the spring 2010 business meeting were published in *IBL* 80(2):88-89.

**Treasurer's Report:** Steve Dinsmore reported for treasurer Doug Hunt that total current assets as of September 30, 2010 are \$58,721.12. The current balance compared to this time last year shows a \$9,725 deficit. This is partly due to a planned expenditure to the Iowa Water and Land Legacy Coalition. In addition, meetings have generated \$1,000 less than budgeted. Lastly, interest rates are lower this year. Otherwise, financials are in line with the previous year.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Records and Publications:** Ann Johnson reported that *Iowa Bird Life* is going well. John and Anna Bissell have taken over as editors of *IOU News* and are doing very well. Along with the next dues statement, Pam Allen plans to survey members regarding feelings about an electronic newsletter. Ann is in the process of completely upgrading the web site. Ann noted that 722 people utilize the IOU Listserv. Matt Kenne has been approved by the board to serve as a member of the records committee to replace Paul Hertzell who goes off the committee in January. Ann reported two status changes: Neotropic Cormorant to casual status and Bewick's Wren to regular; however, the committee requests continued documentation of Bewick's Wren sightings away from the usual Argyle site. A new official state check list will be published in 2011 to reflect recent taxonomic changes. Ann requested that members submit more photographs to supplement bird sightings. There are 15 species that have only written documentation. Photos, even if they are not perfect, would provide helpful documen-

tation. Steve Dinsmore asked the general membership if there would be an interest in future presentations regarding documentation of rare bird sightings. The general consensus was in agreement with the need for this type of presentation.

**Library/Historical:** Steve Dinsmore reported Hank Zaletel continues to archive IOU information. The IOU Flickr site is available for photographs of IOU members.

**Membership:** Karen Disbrow reported 367 individual memberships and 27 institutional for a total of 394. Karen updated the membership regarding IOU items for sale. Karen reported that membership committee is taking requests to do presentations at local birding organizations. Karen will go off the membership committee in May, 2011. A chair and at least three additional members are needed. Karen reported that membership committee members have taken the IOU information board to various birding and nature events around the state.

**Projects:** Bruce Ehresman reported the 2010 awards as follows: 1) Quad City Audubon Society (\$1,000 toward funding the project "Winter 2010-11 Milan Bottoms Bald Eagle Night Roost Monitoring"); 2) Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (\$600 toward funding the project "Story County Habitat Protection and Restoration"); 3) Iowa DNR (\$400 toward funding the project "Monitoring and Evaluating the Ecological Condition of Iowa's Shallow Lakes"); 4) Hitchcock Nature Center (\$900 toward funding the project "Hitchcock Hawkwatch Raptor Banding"); and 5) Anna MacDonald, ISU graduate student (\$100 toward funding the project "Avian community composition and habitat use within watersheds of con-

trasting annual-perennial vegetation configurations”).

**Trips:** There is still no chair for this committee. IOU member Jim Fuller is interested in leading a trip to Minnesota this winter.

**Iowa Breeding Bird Atlas:** Billy Reiter-Marolf reported that 4,900 total hours have been logged for this project so far. This is the third year of the project and all blocks have been surveyed at least once. Ann Johnson updated the BBA web site with changes in the pin color coding: red pins now represent blocks with fewer than five hours and yellow represent 5-10 hours of effort.

#### OLD BUSINESS

None

#### NEW BUSINESS

**Election Day:** Steve Dinsmore reminded members to vote Tuesday, November 2 on the Iowa Water and Land Legacy Amendment.

**Future IOU meetings:** The spring 2011 meeting will be held in Shenandoah, Iowa. Date and specific meeting location to be announced. A fall 2011 host is still needed. The spring 2012 meeting will be held in Iowa City.

**IOU Members:** The organization recognized Anna MacDonald who is attending her first IOU meeting.

Steve Dinsmore reminded the membership that articles are needed for both the newsletter and journal.

Bob Cecil reminded members to bid on books at the silent auction. Earnings go to the publications committee.

Motion by Rick Hollis and seconded by Bruce Ehresman that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cathy Konrad, secretary

## Iowa Ornithologists' Union Board Meeting

*23 October 2010*

The IOU fall board meeting was held at the Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge, Prairie City, Iowa. President Steve Dinsmore called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M. Also in attendance were Aaron Brees, vice president; Cathy Konrad, secretary; board member Jay Gilliam; Ann Johnson and Karen Disbrow, committee chairs; Billy Reiter-Marolf, BBA Coordinator; Bruce Ehresman, projects committee, and three guests.

**Secretary's Report:** Cathy Konrad reported that the minutes of the 2010 spring board meeting were published in *IBL* 80(2):90-91.



**Treasurer's Report:** Steve Dinsmore presented the written report provided by treasurer Doug Hunt. The current balance compared to this time last year shows a \$9,725 deficit. This is partly due to a planned expenditure to the Iowa Water and Land Legacy Coalition. In addition, meetings have generated \$1,000 less than budgeted. Doug reported that otherwise, financials are similar to this period last year. Total current assets are \$58,721.12.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Membership Coordinator's Report:** Steve Dinsmore reported for Pam Allen that there are 367 individual and 27 institutional memberships for a total of 394. Along with the next dues statement, Pam plans to survey members regarding their opinions about an electronic newsletter.

**Publications:** Ann Johnson reported that John and Anna Bissell have taken over as editors of *IOU News* and are doing very well. Ann is in the process of completely upgrading the IOU web site. Ann noted that 722 people utilize the IOU Listserv. Ann suggested membership help devise ways to encourage conversion of Listserv users to full IOU members. Karen Disbrow reported that only one box of the current IOU checklists remain. The Board discussed ordering more when the current checklist is updated.

**Records:** Ann Johnson requested Board approval for Matt Kenne to serve as a new member. Jay Gilliam moved and Steve Dinsmore seconded; motion carried. Ann reported two status changes: Neotropic Cormorant to casual status and Bewick's Wren to regular; however, the committee requests continued documentation of sightings of both species. The committee plans to update the official state check list in 2011.

**Membership:** Karen Disbrow reported plans to take the IOU display board to several nature and birding events around the state such as in Pella, Iowa City, and Honey Creek. Karen plans to step down as chair as of next May. Doug Harr will remain on committee but there is a need for additional members.

**Projects:** Bruce Ehresman reported the 2010 awards as follows: 1) Quad City Audubon Society (\$1,000 toward funding the project "Winter 2010-11 Milan Bottoms Bald Eagle Night Roost Monitoring"); 2) Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (\$600 toward funding the project "Story County Habitat Protection and Restoration"); 3) Iowa DNR (\$400 toward funding the project "Monitoring and Evaluating the Ecological Condition of Iowa's Shallow Lakes"); 4) Hitchcock Nature Center (\$900 toward funding the project "Hitchcock Hawkwatch Raptor Banding"); and 5) Anna MacDonald, ISU graduate student (\$100 toward funding the project "Avian community composition and habitat use within watersheds of contrasting annual-perennial vegetation configurations").

**Library/Historical:** Hank Zaletel not present but sent a report that he continues to archive IOU information. Ann Johnson reported that Hank has the IOU Flickr site up and running. Ann sets permission before photographs can be posted.

**Trips:** There is still no chair for this committee. Dick Tetrault reported that Jim Fuller is interested in leading a trip to Minnesota this winter. Steve Dinsmore requested that Jim put forth a proposal to the Board with specifics on dates, costs, etc. Ann Johnson would need the information for on-line registration.

**Iowa Breeding Bird Atlas:** Billy Reiter-Marolf reported that 4,900 total hours have been logged for this project so far. This is the third year of the project and all blocks have been surveyed at least once. Ann Johnson updated the BBA web site with changes in the pin color coding: red pins now represent blocks with fewer than five hours and yellow represent 5–10 hours.

**Nominating Committee:** A nominating committee needs to be formed. Officer/board positions needed include president, vice president, and two board members.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Paul Roisen sent written information regarding ways to encourage youth to attend IOU meetings such as free youth memberships, a book gift, or offering a trip specifically designed for young birders.

#### NEW BUSINESS

**Electronic journal subscriptions:** Ann Johnson addressed the issue electronic journal subscriptions for libraries. Some libraries are requesting a password to the IOU web site in order to access the journal. Ann recommends that the library be requested to send an e-mail address to which IOU would send the electronic journal rather than giving out the password. The board was in favor but no specific action taken.

**IOU debit card:** Ann Johnson requested that IOU utilize a debit card for expenses incurred by the organization in order to

prevent these expenses going on a personal credit card. Treasurer Doug Hunt has researched this issue and reported to Ann that the bank holding the current IOU account will issue a debit card as long as the board approves the card and states specifically who has access to the card. Steve Dinsmore moved that IOU request a bank debit card and approve the president and treasurer to use this card. Jay Gilliam seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Election Day:** Steve Dinsmore reminded the board to vote Tuesday, November 2 on the Iowa Water and Land Legacy Amendment.

**Iowa Outdoor Show, Des Moines:** Steve Dinsmore received an invitation for IOU to participate in this event January 7–9, 2011. No action taken.

**Future IOU meetings:** The spring 2011 meeting will be held in Shenandoah, Iowa. Date and specific meeting location to be announced. A fall 2011 host is still needed. Karen Disbrow and the Iowa City Birding Club offered to host the May 2012 meeting in Iowa City. Jay Gilliam moved and Steve Dinsmore seconded to accept Iowa City as the spring 2012 meeting site. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cathy Konrad, secretary

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*Compiled by James J. Dinsmore*

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*Barn Swallow, Boone, 8 July 2010. Photograph by Jim Moreland, Boone, IA*



*Cattle Egrets, Hamilton, 14 July 2010. Photograph by Jim Moreland, Boone, IA*



*Solitary Sandpiper*, Humboldt, 21 July 2010. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA



*Yellow-headed Blackbird*, Boone, 28 June 2010. Photograph by Jim Moreland, Boone, IA

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**UPCOMING MEETINGS OF THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION:** Spring 2011: 1–3 May 2011, Shenandoah.

**FRONT COVER PHOTO:** Field Sparrow, *Cherokee*, 3 June 2010. Photograph by Dick Bierman, Cherokee, IA.

**BACK COVER PHOTO:** Barred Owl fledgling, Yellow Banks P, *Polk*, 10 July 2010. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.

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